

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of making a blended reduced nicotine tobacco comprising:
providing a first tobacco;
providing a second tobacco produced from a genetically modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety; and
blending said first tobacco with said second tobacco so as to obtain said reduced nicotine tobacco.

2. (Original) A tobacco product comprising the blended reduced nicotine tobacco produced by the method of Claim 1.

3. (Original) A method of making a blended reduced TSNA tobacco comprising:
providing a first tobacco;
providing a second tobacco produced from a genetically modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety; and
blending said first tobacco with said second tobacco so as to obtain said reduced TSNA tobacco.

4. (Original) A tobacco product comprising the blended reduced TSNA tobacco produced by the method of Claim 3.

5. (Original) A method of making a reduced nicotine tobacco product with a desired amount of nicotine comprising:
providing a first tobacco, wherein said first tobacco has a measured amount of nicotine;
providing a second tobacco produced from a genetically modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety, wherein said second tobacco has a measured amount of nicotine ; and
blending said first tobacco with said second tobacco so as to produce a reduced nicotine tobacco product with a desired amount of nicotine.

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6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said reduced nicotine tobacco product is a blended cigarette .

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said blended cigarette comprises 0.6 mg nicotine or less.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said blended cigarette comprises 0.3 mg nicotine or less.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said blended cigarette comprises 0.05 mg nicotine or less.

10. (Original) A tobacco product comprising the blended reduced nicotine tobacco produced by a method selected from the group consisting of Claim 5, Claim 6, Claim 7, Claim 8, and Claim 9.

11. (Original) A tobacco-use cessation kit comprising a tobacco product selected from the tobacco products of Claim 2, Claim 4, or Claim 10.

12. (Original) A method of making a reduced TSNA tobacco product with a desired amount of TSNA comprising:

providing a first tobacco, wherein said first tobacco has a measured amount of TSNA;

providing a second tobacco produced from a genetically modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety, wherein said second tobacco has a measured amount of TSNA; and

blending said first tobacco with said second tobacco so as to produce a reduced TSNA tobacco product with a desired amount of TSNA.

13. (Currently amended) A method of reducing the nicotine consumption of a tobacco user comprising:

providing said tobacco user a first tobacco product comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis , as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety; and

a providing said tobacco user a second tobacco product comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same

variety, wherein said second tobacco product comprises less nicotine than said first tobacco product.

providing said tobacco user with additional tobacco products comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety, wherein said subsequent tobacco products comprise sequentially reduced amounts of nicotine, starting with a third product that comprises less nicotine than said first or second tobacco product.

14. (Currently amended) A method of reducing the TSNA consumption of a tobacco user comprising:

providing said tobacco user a first tobacco product comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety; and

a providing said tobacco user a second tobacco product comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety, wherein said second tobacco product comprises less TSNA than said first tobacco product.

providing said tobacco user with additional tobacco products comprising tobacco produced from a modified tobacco plant comprising a reduced level of QPTase an enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis, as compared to an unmodified tobacco plant of the same variety, wherein said subsequent tobacco products comprise sequentially reduced amounts of TSNA, starting with a third product that comprises less TSNA than said first or second tobacco product.

15. (Currently amended) Use of a genetically modified tobacco produced from a tobacco plant that comprises a reduced amount of QTPase QPTase to prepare a blended tobacco product that comprises a selected amount of nicotine.

16. (Currently amended) Use of a genetically modified tobacco produced from a tobacco plant that comprises a reduced amount of QTPase QPTase to prepare a blended tobacco product that comprises a selected amount of TSNA.

17. (Original) The use of Claims 15 or 16, wherein said blended tobacco product is a blended cigarette.

18. (Original) The use of Claims 15 or 16, wherein said blended tobacco product is a blended cigarette comprising 0.6 mg nicotine or less.

19. (Original) The use of Claims 15 or 16, wherein said blended tobacco product is a blended cigarette comprising 0.3 mg nicotine or less.

20. (Original) The use of Claims 15 or 16, wherein said blended tobacco product is a blended cigarette comprising 0.05 mg nicotine or less.

21. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is selected from the group consisting of quinolate phosphoribosyl transferase (QPTase), putrescine N-methyltransferase (PMTase), N-methylputrescine oxidase, ornithine decarboxylase, S-adenosylmethionine synthetase, NADH dehydrogenase and phosphoribosylanthranilate isomerase.

22. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is QPTase.

23. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is PMTase.

24. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 25 nucleotides in length.

25. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 50 nucleotides in length.

26. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

27. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 250 nucleotides in length.

28. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is selected from the group consisting of quinolate phosphoribosyl transferase

(QPTase), putrescine N-methyltransferase (PMTase), N-methylputrescine oxidase, ornithine decarboxylase, S-adenosylmethionine synthetase, NADH dehydrogenase and phosphoribosylanthranilate isomerase.

29. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is QPTase.

30. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said enzyme involved in nicotine biosynthesis is PMTase.

31. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 25 nucleotides in length.

32. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 50 nucleotides in length.

33. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

34. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said tobacco comprises a portion of a DNA sequence that encodes an enzyme in the nicotine synthesis pathway or the complement thereof, wherein said DNA sequence is at least 250 nucleotides in length.